Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T Johnson
Superintendent of Police

April 5, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mr. Joseph Lipari
Deputy Inspector General
Public Safety Section
City of Chicago Office of Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654
jlipari@igchicago.org

Re: *CPD's Response to City of Chicago Office of Inspector General's Review of the Chicago Police Department's "Gang Database"*

Dear Deputy Inspector General Lipari:

Please see below the Chicago Police Department's response to the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General's Review of the Chicago Police Department's "Gang Database".

I. Summary Response:

The Chicago Police Department ("CPD") is currently in the process of historic reform and transformation. At the core of CPD's strategic plan, Department members are focused upon improving public safety with proactive, focused crime-fighting strategies while building community trust and strengthening relationships within the City of Chicago. To this end, CPD's comprehensive plan includes and requires a Department-wide modernization of its technological capabilities and intelligence gathering methods. A critical part of this effort includes an overhaul of the manner in which CPD officers collect and manage gang information and intelligence.

It goes without saying that criminal street gangs in Chicago pose a real, substantial, and ongoing threat of violence to our great City. Chicago continues to experience unrelenting and sometimes unspeakable crimes in furtherance of criminal street gang activity. The ability to understand how these criminal networks operate, organize, and potentially conflict with one another is essential to reduce violent crime, and enhance the safety and awareness of our officers working every day in the street.

Given the unique gang violence issues that have existed and evolved for generations in Chicago, maintaining gang information and intelligence is a vital part of CPD's anti-violence efforts. Put simply, the use of gang information within CPD is as diverse as the various Bureaus, Divisions, and Units that make up the Department.